

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 12-21 are pending in the application. Claim 7 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the features of independent claim 6.

The Examiner has objected to claim 6 because he asserts that the phrase “a wire press-contacting portion,” should be --the wire press-contacting portion--. The Examiner also asserts that the phrase “the inner face” (in claim 7) lacks proper antecedent basis. Applicant amends claims 6 and 7 to address these objections, as requests withdrawal of the objection.

With specific reference to the claimed press-contacting “blades” in claim 6, the Examiner contends that antecedent basis is not provided because “blades” is plural, while the singular form “blade” is previously used in the claim. Applicant traverses the objection in this regard and informs the Examiner that claim 6 recites a *plurality* of terminals. Each of said terminals includes a wire press-contacting portion and a press-contacting blade. Therefore, the recitation of “press-contacting blades,” is in fact provided with proper antecedent basis due to the explicit recitation of the “plurality” of terminals. Naturally a “plurality” of terminals will provide press-contacting “blades.”

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Genz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,288 [hereinafter “Genz”]). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Figures 3 and 4 of Genz disclose a contact 54 which the Examiner applies against the claimed terminal. The contact 54 includes slotted recesses 70 and 72 for stripping insulation of external wires that are electrically connected to the contact 54 (see column 5, lines 40-46 of Genz). The contact 54 also includes a channel 86 for engaging a blade member 30.

Figure 1 of Genz discloses an electrical connector housing into which the contact 54 is disposed. A contact portion 58 of the contact 54 is slid into the socket 116 such that free-edge

portions 66 and 68 of the contact 54 engage slots 120 and 122. An electrical connector 10 is then moved in a downward direction (represented by arrow D shown in Figure 1) such that the blade members 30 engage the channel 86. Thus, the channel 86 lies in a longitudinal direction of the socket 116 and the opening of the channel 86 receives the mating terminal 30 when the connector 10 is pushed downwardly onto the housing 36.

Independent claims 1 and 6 recite “wherein a press-contacting direction in which the wire is press-contacted with the wire press-contacting portion is *parallel* to a terminal fitting direction of the terminal connection portion.” As shown in the exemplary embodiment of present Figure 1, a press-contacting direction is the direction that the wire “D” is pressed into the grooves 32. Likewise, a terminal fitting direction of the terminal connecting portion is the direction “A” shown to the left of Figure 1. Therefore, the terminal is configured such that these two directions are parallel to each other.

It appears that the Examiner is interpreting the claimed phrase “terminal fitting direction” as being the direction in which the contact portion 58 of Genz is inserted into the socket 116. However, claims 1 and 6 recite that the press-contact direction is parallel to a terminal fitting direction of “the mating terminal into an internal space” of the terminal connecting portion. As shown in the exemplary embodiment of present Figure 8, a mating terminal is to be inserted into the terminal insertion port 61a so as to contact the portion 23. As a skilled artisan will appreciate, the direction in which the mating terminal would be inserted is parallel to the press-contact direction.

In Genz, the direction that the mating terminal 30 engages with the channel 86 is *perpendicular* to a direction in which a wire is pressed into the press-contact portion 70. Thus, Genz fails to disclose the claimed features, such that the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §

102(e) should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 4 and 5 should likewise be withdrawn at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Genz in view JP 2-115257U (“‘257”). Applicant submits that ‘257 does not compensate for the deficiencies of Genz, such that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should likewise be withdrawn.

Applicant adds new claims 12-21 to obtain more varied protection for the invention. Claim 12 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 7. Claims 13-21 are deemed patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claims 1, 6 and 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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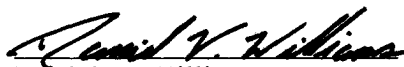
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Date: February 5, 2007